



HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

Held at

V.O.C. College of Education, Tuticorin, Tamilnadu INDIA

On

22-23, October 2013



Organized by

**IARF - Human Rights Resource Centre,
Kirikera, Hindupur, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA**

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

Introduction

Human Rights Education is the need of the hour. Everyone's rights need to be protected. We need to learn to respect the value of life. International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) - Human Rights Resource Center in association with the Caussanel Province of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus conducted a two days intensive training program for the inter-college students (V.O.C B. Ed college, V.O.C college of arts and science, APC college of arts and science for women and St. Mary's college for women) at VOC college of Education on 7th & 8th February 2014. Nearly Approximately 143 students participated in the training.

V.O.C. College of Education

V.O.C. College of Education came into being in **1955** which is named after the great patriot and freedom fighter **V.O. Chidambaram Pillai**. The college was started not as a commercial venture for the glory of a particular family or community, but to cater to the educational needs of the youth of Tuticorin particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The renowned educational institution is situated in a colossal and luxuriant campus of about 20 acres on the National High Ways at Thoothukudi. Flanked by this location, the college is easily accessible by both road and rail. The tranquil ambiance soothes the anxious young minds and gears them up for rigorous academic pursuits. The progress of the college is the consequence of noble aspirations, intense diligence, meticulous calculations and innovative execution of grand plans by the college community.



Program

The program began at 9.30am with an inaugural ceremony. Bro. Britto, SHJ welcomed the gathering. Mr. Chokkalingam, the Secretary of V.O.C Institutions stated in his inaugural address, he said that “human right education is a must for today’s situation. The violations that take place against human rights should be recognized and we must work hard to stop those things in the society. College students will have to be aware of human rights and spread the message everywhere. When everybody is aware of human rights, the society will be flourishing with human values”. Rev. Bro. M.D Sebastian and Bro. Lourdurai and other guest also presented for the inaugural celebration Bro. Xavier as felicitator started training program me with small introduction on IARF and HRRC.



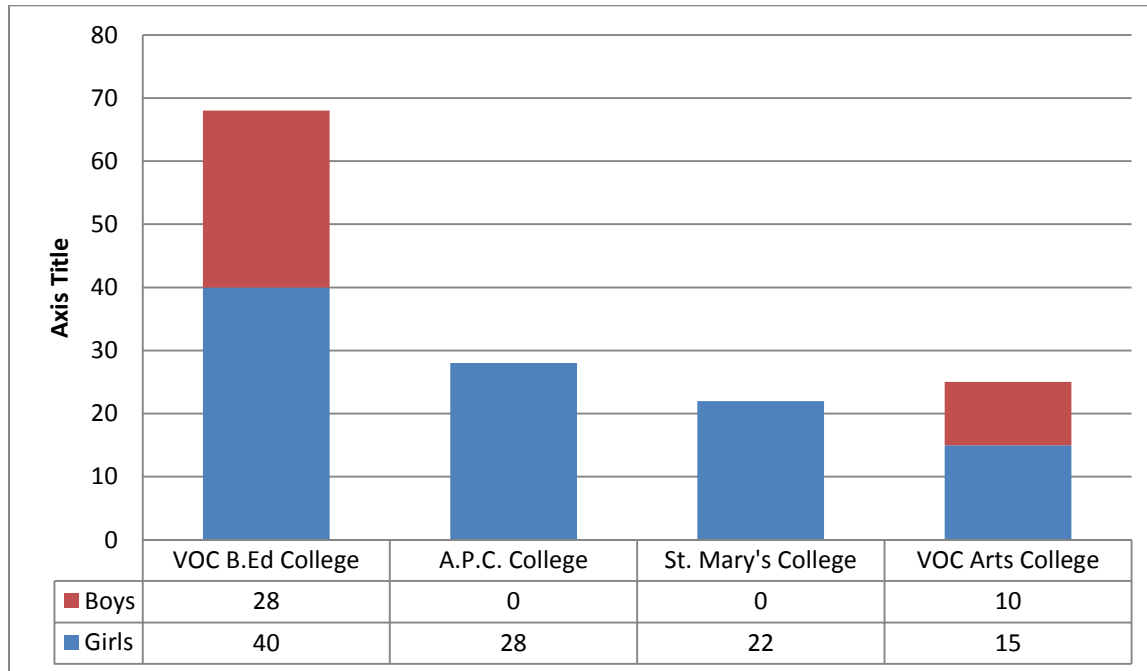
Mr. Robert the administrator of IARF London said that it is a must to learn about human rights. Human rights education is a need in schools and colleges. He

wished everybody who took part in the program me learn about human rights.

Br. Xavier started his teaching in a special way and made everybody to know each other by a game. He presented 30 articles on human rights through PowerPoint presentation with some realities of the society. He conducted different activities in order to make the group understand the concept of human rights.

Students took part in the training very actively and they expressed so many ideas on violations that take place against human rights. They told number of stories related to human rights violations that take place in the villages. Violations and solutions were expressed through “tableau” by the students. They all appreciated the training program and promised that they would involve much in human right education and convey message on every body’s rights to the people.

Participants



Issues discussed

During the training program the participants were asked to share human rights related issues, which they experienced in to their life. The following two main issues were discussed.

1. Discrimination (UDHR Art. 2)

The Human Rights Issue was shared based on the UDHR Art 2 Don't Discriminate. The Tamilnadu Government supplies free fan and mixer etc to the public. Two people from a same village went to receive the free electrical good given by the government officials in the nearby office. But they gave the gifts to one person and not to the other, the reason they said she is the wife of the member of the opposite party. When the person who received the goods questioned, immediately they got back the goods, which was given to her. The government announces that they will provide free goods to everyone, but now they are discriminating based on political parties.



Other participants also shared their opinions based on the issue. They are...

- Most of the time the Government gives free electronic things to the people who supported the in election. They consider others as an enemy or secondary people.
- The government fools and make the people too lazy, by providing all free goods
- They provide electronic good (Fan, Mixer, Lap-top, etc) for free, but they are not providing enough electricity to use that (eight to ten hours power cut).
- Instead of giving free electronic goods, the government can introduce free solar energy power system to the people to have 24 hours electricity.

2. The Right to your own things (UDHR Art 17)

One of the other participant shared issue, which she herself experience one of the villages in Tuticorin District, Tamilnadu. One day evening she walked in the village, where we can



find the people always. Two people came by bike and took her chain, but she did not give the chain and she also was holding other end of the chin. She was started to should to help her and running behind of the bike in the whole street, but no one turn to her to help her. Then she phoned to her brother and he came with his friends to the spot. They immediately complained to the police, when the police came to the spot, they said this area is not under their control and they requested them to contact another station for complain. Then her brother went to the particular station and brought the police to the spot. They filed FIR there itself. But they did not register the real value of the chain. When she questioned this they said we have to write like this

only. After that every month they call to the police station regarding the chain, but they say, they are still searching for it. It took more than six month. After seven months they came to her house and asked us to sing in the documents to close the file.

Two main points should be noted in this issue.

1. People are indifferent and they are not ready to support or help the person
2. The police wrote wrong complaints and after seven months they requested they to sing the documents to close the complaint.

Feedback

Other comments: It is a wonderful training session for us. Really we are gifted to attend this kind of training program. It enhances the basic rights quality among us and in the society. we came to know about the many information which we do not know till now. Really its useful to us. we are very much interested to know more about this organization and take a part of it.

Thank you Brothers for your wonderful presence and Thank you for sharing such knowledgeable information about the rights.

Other comments: I already said that in the first day itself that my expectation is how this programme is useful for me. Yes, I agree that this programme is very much useful for me to know more about my basic fundamental rights and about IARF. This programme indulge & elicit my thoughts how to use our HR in life. The programme make me to mingle with many members. And I also have an urge to make me to ~~have~~ join and serve in your institution to promote HR awareness all around mainly among youngsters.

Other comments: first i thank you, to given a useful training for us. Really Its a awesome class for me. This class make me to know what is HR and also how it is important. And how to apply these articles. These 2 days makes a big awareness between us. Here i understood even i had a right to and can make a little change by giving effort. Now im eager to join with this as a member. Thank you once again for this secure training.

With how many people do you intend to share your knowledge of HRE and Religious Freedom? _____

Other comments: we know about the human rights. how to use the rights. how to give the solutions to the problems we are all know what is human rights. how to use the rights in a proper way. we are all know our society's conditions and common problems. we want the changes. As a teacher we give the awareness to the students and the society in human rights. we will give the promise to the institution we follow the human rights. Through this program we will improve our knowledge. we have a new experience. It was a useful seminar for us. I thank our institutions and the organisation to give this wonderful opportunity to us. Thank you!

Conclusion

There was the final gathering on the 8TH of February at 3.30pm in which certificates were distributed by Mrs. Dr.P.G. Seetha Laxmi, The Principal of APC college for women, Mr. Robert, The Administrator of IARF, Mr. Heartman, Manager of St. Judes fright private lmtd, Mr. Thomoderen, The Principal of VOC college of education and Miss. Janhvy, the Co-ordinator of IARF. Mr. Thomoderen encouraged all by his beautiful words. He said that it is a pride for V.O.C college to have HRE program in their campus. He appreciated the great service of IARF and thanked Br. Xavier and Br. Britto. The program came to an end with a vote of thanks given by Rev. Bro. Britto shj.

Bro. A. Britto
Ms. Saravin
Ms. Jebaraj
RFYN - Tuticorin